National Transportation Safety Board NTSB ID: DEN02LA101 Aircraft Registration Number: N43GA FACTUAL REPORT Occurrence Date: 08/30/2002 Most Critical Injury: Serious Occurrence Type: Accident Investigated By: NTSB ETYBO Location/Time Nearest City/Place State Zip Code Local Time Time Zone 1225 CO 81215 MDT Canon City Distance From Landing Facility: Direction From Airport: Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip Aircraft Information Summary Aircraft Manufacturer Model/Series Type of Aircraft Bell 206L-III Helicopter

Narrative

Sightseeing Flight: No

Brief narrative statement of facts, conditions and circumstances pertinent to the accident/incident:

On August 30, 2002, at approximately 1225 mountain daylight time, a Bell 206L-III helicopter, N43GA, was destroyed when it struck wires while maneuvering near Canon City, Colorado. The airline transport pilot, the sole occupant aboard the aircraft, was not injured. Royal Gorge HeliTours was operating the aircraft under Title 14 CFR Part 91. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the personal local flight that had departed approximately 5 minutes before the accident. No flight plan had been filed.

Air Medical Transport Flight:

The pilot said that he had been flying down in the canyon, and had come up to the surface to return to his helipad. He said that the helicopter's mast struck a wire, and severed the main rotor pitch change tubes disabling the aircraft. The pilot said that the helicopter came down vertically (20 to 30 feet) breaking the left skid, crushing the fuselage, separating the tail boom, and separating portions of both main rotor blades.

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AVIATION

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AVIATION			Occurrence Type: Accident											
Landing Facility/Approach In	formation						•							
Airport Name			Airport ID:	Ai	irport Elevatio Ft. M		Runv	vay Used	Runwa	y Lengt	h	Runv	vay Width	
Runway Surface Type: Unknown									_					
Runway Surface Condition: Unknown	own													
Type Instrument Approach: Unknown	own													
VFR Approach/Landing: None														
Aircraft Information														
Aircraft Manufacturer Bell			Mode 206	el/Ser L-III	ries					Serial 5130	l Number 05			
Airworthiness Certificate(s): Normal														
Landing Gear Type: Skid														
Homebuilt Aircraft? No	Number of Seats:	7	Certif	ied M	ax Gross Wt.			5000	0 LBS Number		r of En	of Engines: 1		
= - 11			Engine M Allison	Engine Manufacturer: Model/Series: 250-C30P							Rate 650	d Power: HP		
- Aircraft Inspection Information														
Type of Last Inspection Da			Date of La	Date of Last Inspection Tim			ime Since Last Inspection					Airframe Total Time		
100 Hour			07/2002	07/2002 33					33 Ho	3 Hours			988 Hours	
- Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information													
ELT Installed? No ELT Operated? No				ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site? No										
Owner/Operator Information														
Registered Aircraft Owner			Street	Street Address P.O. Box 860										
Rapid Air LLC			City								State	е	Zip Code	
			Ctroot	۸ ما ما م	Canon City	/					СО		81215	
Operator of Aircraft			Street Address											
			City						State	е	Zip Code			
Operator Does Business As: Royal Gorge HeliTours							Ор	erator Desig	nator Co	de:				
- Type of U.S. Certificate(s) Held:	None													
Air Carrier Operating Certificate(s)	:													
Operating Certificate:					Operator Cer	rtificate:	:							
Regulation Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation														
Type of Flight Operation Conducted	d: Personal													
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AVIATION	Occurrence Type: Accident				1						
First Pilot Information											
Name					City				tate	Date of Birth	Age
On File	On File			Oı	n File	On File	57				
Sex: M Seat Occupied: Ri	n Pilot	ot Certificate Number: On File									
Certificate(s): Airline T											
Airplane Rating(s): Single-engine Land											
Rotorcraft/Glider/LTA: Helicopt	ter										
Instrument Rating(s): None											
Instructor Rating(s): None											
Type Rating/Endorsement for A	ccident/Ind	cident Aircraf	t? Yes		(Current Bi	ennial Flig	ht Revie	ew? 11/2	2000	
Medical Cert.: Class 2	Medical	l Cert. Status	: Valid Med	dicalno wa	aivers/lim.		Date	of Last N	Medical E	xam: 11/2001	
- Flight Time Matrix	All A/C	This Make and Model	Airplane Single Engine	Airplane Mult-Engine	Night	Actual	nstrument Simu	lated	Rotorcraft	Glider	Lighter Than Air
Total Time	20000	5000	3000		3000	1	00	150	2000	00	
Pilot In Command(PIC)	20000	5000	3000		3000				2000	00	
Instructor											
Last 90 Days					100	_					
Last 30 Days Last 24 Hours	1	1			30					1	
Seatbelt Used? Yes	<u> </u>	der Harness	Ilsed? Yes		Toxic	ology Pei	formed?	 1	S	econd Pilot?	
	Onour				1.0%			10			
Flight Plan/Itinerary											
Type of Flight Plan Filed: None	; 										
Departure Point					State	e A	Airport Identifier		r Departure Time		Time Zone
Same as Accident/Incident L	Location						NONE		1220		MDT
Destination					State	State Airg		Airport Identifier			
Local Flight						Tale Talentine					
Type of Clearance: None					-	-					
Type of Airspace: Class G											
Weather Information											
Source of Briefing: Unknown											
Method of Briefing: Unknown											
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Occurrence Type: Accident

	FTYBOR		Occurrent	Je Type.	Accidei	и						
Weather	Information											
WOF ID	Observation Time	Time Zone	WOF Elevati	ion	WOF Distance From Accident Site					Direction From	n Accident Site	Э
PUB	1354	MDT	4726 Ft.	. MSL				39 NM		120 Deg. Mag.		
Sky/Lowes	st Cloud Condition: Clear					Ft. AGL C			Condition of Light: Day			
Lowest Ce	eiling: None	Ft.	AGL	Visib	ility:	10	SM	Altimeter:		30.13	"Hg	
Temperatu	ure: 29 °C [6 °C	6 °C Wind Direction: Density Altitude:						9811	Ft.		
Wind Spee		Weather Condtions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions										
Visibility (R	RVR): Ft.	Visibility (R)	VV)	SM	Intensit	y of Precipit	tation:					
Restriction	ns to Visibility: None											
Type of Pre	Type of Precipitation: None											
Accident	Information											
Aircraft Dar	mage: Destroyed	Aircraft Fir	Aircraft Fire: None					losio	n None			
Classificati	ion: U.S. Registered/U.	.S. Soil										
- Injury Su	mmary Matrix	Fatal Se	erious Mino	or	None	TOTAL						
First Pi	ilot		1			1]					
Second	d Pilot]					
Studen	nt Pilot						1					
Flight I	nstructor						1					
Check	Pilot						1					
Flight E	Engineer						1					
Cabin /	Attendants						1					
Other C	Crew						1					
Passen	ngers						1					
- TOTAL /	ABOARD -		1			1	1					
Other G	Ground						1					
- GRAND	O TOTAL -		1			1	1					

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Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)

James F. Struhsaker

Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation:

Gary Dupertuis Federal Aviation Administration Denver, CO 80249